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Web Communication Tool Enhances Emergency Communication Between IDHS and Local Emergency Managers

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is implementing a crisis information management system that provides county emergency management agency (EMA) managers with a resource to manage local incidents through simultaneous information sharing.

County EMA staff can report their county's status, such as road closures, flooded areas and assistance requests with the immediacy of the web. WebEOC allows public safety agencies to share information with private partners and to track critical missions and tasks. This system provides more efficient tracking of resource requests between local emergency operation centers and the IDHS Emergency Operations Center.

WebEOC is a web-enabled crisis information management system and provides secure real-time information sharing to help managers make sound decisions quickly. Originally developed for public safety and emergency management officials, WebEOC is now also used for routine operations in private corporations, public utilities, domestic and international airlines, healthcare associations, universities, and city, county and state governments nationwide.

"Communication is the cornerstone of emergency management," said Arvin Copeland, IDHS director of emergency response and recovery. "The addition of WebEOC will certainly enhance communication by providing a common operating picture in real time. The exposure to risk is tremendous during times of crisis and I am confident the proper use of WebEOC will minimize risk through quick decision making and response time."

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